

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jiang Hsieh, et al. :
: Art Unit:
U.S. Patent No.: 6,256,368 :
: Examiner:
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:
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR :
SCOUT-BASED CARDIAC
CALCIFICATION SCORING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Reissue
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Please enter the following amendment prior to examination of the present application:

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS

22. (Newly added) A method for facilitating calcification scoring, said method comprising:

imaging a heart at a first phase of a cardiac cycle to obtain a first image;

imaging the heart at a second phase of the cardiac cycle different from the first phase to obtain a second image; and

determining a difference image using the first and second images.

23. (Newly added) A method in accordance with Claim 22 further comprising instructing the patient to hold his or her breath during imaging.

24. (Newly added) A method in accordance with Claim 22 further comprising identifying calcification deposits on portions of the difference image corresponding to moving body structures of the patient.